

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4252

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PASS COMMERCE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY WEIL AND
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHEPHERD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, OECD
SUBJECT: JUNE 28-30 INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEETING

SUMMARY: INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MET JUNE 28-30 AND ELECTED
DOC ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK WEIL AS CHAIRMAN. THE
IC ALSO AGREED TO GENERAL THRUST OF PROPOSED 1979 WORK
PROGRAM WHICH, INTER ALIA, WILL INCLUDE FURTHER WORK
ON INVESTMENTS. IN OTHER AREAS, IC HEARD REPORTS ON
PULP AND PAPER, IRON AND STEEL, AND THE INTERFUTURES
REPORT ON THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY. IC NEXT MEETS
NOVEMBER 14-16, PRECEDED BY A MEETING OF THE
IC BUREAU NOVEMBER 13. END SUMMARY

1. THE OECD INDUSTRY COMMITTEE (IC) OPENED ITS 36TH
SESSION BY ELECTING COMMERCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANK
WEIL AS ITS CHAIRMAN. IC ALSO ELECTED AS VICE-
CHAIRMAN OF THE ENLARGED BUREAU MR. ESPER (FRANCE)
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TO REPLACE PETERSON (U.S.). MR. SOAMES (AUSTRALIA)
REPLACED IVES AS A BUREAU MEMBER.

2. THE SECRETARIAT REPORTED ON THE MINISTERIAL, THE
INTERFUTURES STUDY ON THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY, INVEST-
MENT WORK BEING DONE BY WP-2 OF THE ECONOMIC POLICY
COMMITTEE, AND CURRENT STATUS OF WORK BY THE AD HOC

WORKING GROUP ON THE STEEL INDUSTRY. THE SECRETARIAT SUGGESTED THAT IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE, THE IC MIGHT STUDY PRESENT AND FUTURE ADJUSTMENT POLICIES IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER DEFINE THE CONCEPT OF POSITIVE ADJUSTMENT.

3. THE INTERFUTURES REPORT ON AUTOMOBILES AND THE INVESTMENT WORK BY WP-2 OF THE EPC WERE BOTH STRONGLY ENDORSED BY THE COMMITTEE, AND CONSIDERABLE INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN USING THE INTERFUTURES SECTORAL STUDIES AS THE BASIS OF FUTURE WORK BY THE IC.

4. PULP AND PAPER: THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING PARTY ON PULP AND PAPER, MARGERIE (FRANCE), REPORTED ON THE BLEAK PROSPECTS NOW FACING THE INDUSTRY: IT LAGS BEHIND THE PRESENT SLOW RECOVERY, IS PLAGUED BY FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, SLACK DEMAND, AND LACK OF INVESTMENT. HE NOTED THAT IN LIGHT OF PROSPECTS FOR THE INDUSTRY, THE WORKING PARTY PLANS A TWO-PHASE PROGRAM OF WORK. FIRST, A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INDUSTRY AND AN ASSESSMENT OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. THE STUDY IS TO BE COMPLETED BY 1979 AND A CONSULTANT WILL BE USED. THE SECOND PHASE OF THE WORK, TO BE COMPLETED BY 1980, WOULD FINALIZE PHASE ONE AND EXAMINE OTHER RELATED FACTORS INCLUDING THE EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS.

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GERMANY, CANADA, SWEDEN, UK, AUSTRIA, ITALY, AND THE EC ALL STRONGLY ENDORSED THIS WORK.

5. INVESTMENT. FUTURE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES' WP CHAIRMAN MR. NANCY PROVIDED HIS LAST REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE BEFORE RETIRING. THOUGH THE INTERIM REPORT WAS WELL RECEIVED AND DELEGATIONS ENDORSED FURTHER WORK, THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION ON HOW TO PROCEED. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE UK, GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND, ONCE AGAIN PROPOSED THAT THE INVESTMENT WORK BE MERGED WITH THAT OF FUTURE INDUSTRIAL STRUCTURES (FIS). OTHER DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING U.S., FRANCE, PORTUGAL, AND AUSTRALIA, INDICATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR SEPARATE GROUPS. U.S. DEL NOTED THAT, WHILE INVESTMENT WORK

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CLEARLY CLOSELY RELATED TO FIS, AND SHOULD BE CLOSELY
COORDINATED, THE FOCUS WAS DIFFERENT. INVESTMENT WORK
BY IC ALSO HAD TO DRAW FROM AND CONTRIBUTE TO EFFORTS OF
WORKING PARTY 2. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUE WAS LEFT OPEN
FOR TIME BEING, BUT U.S. DEL INDICATED IN CORRIDOR
CONVERSATIONS THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO CONTINU-
ATION OF SINGLE CHAIRMAN (PRESUMABLY RIBRANT OF SWEDEN)
FOR BOTH INVESTMENT AND FIS GROUPS.

6. WRITTEN PROPOSAL FOR 1979 WORK PROGRAM WAS GIVEN
EXTENSIVE ORAL ELABORATION BY SECRETARIAT (BECKLER),
WHO ALSO RESPONDED TO WIDE RANGE OF COMMENTS AND QUES-
TIONS FROM IC MEMBERS. ALL DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED
AGREEMENT WITH GENERAL THRUST OF WORK PROGRAM AND ALLOCA-
TION OF RESOURCES, BUT SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF SPECIFIC
INTENT ON SEVERAL ITEMS, PARTICULARLY HOW WORK ON
STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND FIS WOULD BE DEVELOPED AND
COORDINATED WITHIN IC WORK PROGRAM AND BETWEEN IC AND
OTHER COMMITTEES. BECKLER POINTED OUT THAT CURRENT
PROPOSAL WAS A GENERAL STATEMENT DESIGNED AS BASIS FOR
POLICY DISCUSSION, BUDGET REVIEW AND DECISION BY SECGEN
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AND OECD COUNCIL, AND THAT DETAILED PROJECT OUTLINES
WOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR IC CONSIDERATION ON EACH PROGRAM
ELEMENT. SECRETARIAT WILL MODIFY PROPOSALS IN LIGHT OF
IC COMMENTS WITH EMPHASIS ON: (A) BEING RESPONSIVE TO
MAIN THRUST OF MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE, AND (B) MAKING

CLEAR THAT STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT WORK REFLECTS BOTH CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS WORK IN THIS AREA AND RESPONSE TO THE IMPORTANCE GIVEN THIS AREA IN THE MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE. U.S. DEL EXPRESSED PRIVATELY TO BECKLER OUR CONCERNS OVER WHAT APPEARED TO BE UNDUE EMPHASIS ON AND LACK OF CLARITY ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS WITH NEWLY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN PARA 10 OF WORK PROGRAM, AS WELL AS RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROPOSED IC WORK AND WORK OF OTHER COMMITTEES (E.G. TRADE AND ECONOMIC). BECKLER TOOK COMMENTS SERIOUSLY, AND HIS ORAL PRESENTATION TO IC WENT LONG WAY TOWARD CLARIFYING STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT APPROACH. U.S. DEL WILL PROVIDE FURTHER SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS TO BECKLER AND WE BELIEVE A SOUND PROGRAM WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

7. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 14-16 NOVEMBER, WITH BUREAU MEETING AFTERNOON OF 13TH.
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